

**MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON NEW ECONOMY AND QUALITY OF LIFE**

Thursday, June 14, 2007

9:00 a.m.

Room 521, House Office Building

Chair Clemente called the Standing Committee on New Economy and Quality of Life to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Reps. Clemente, Leland, Clack, Griffin, Meadows, Melton, Huizenga, Hildenbrand, Garfield, Pastor (10/11)

MEMBERS ABSENT/EXCUSED: Rep. Meisner (1/11)

The **Chair** announced that the minutes from the meeting held on May 24, 2007, which were adopted on May 29, 2007, have been revised to reflect that **Chris Maxbauer** testified on behalf of herself, not Grand Traverse County.

Representative Melton moved to adopt the revised minutes from the meeting held on May 24, 2007. Hearing no objection, the **motion prevailed** with unanimous consent.

Representative Hildenbrand moved to adopt the minutes from the meeting held on May 29, 2007. Hearing no objection, the **motion prevailed** with unanimous consent.

Representative Melton moved to excuse absent members. Hearing no objection, the **Chair** excused **Representative Meisner**.

Chair Clemente announced that **House Bill 4680** (on today's agenda) and **House Bill 4317** would be taken up by the committee at the next meeting, for referral to the Committee on Commerce.

The **Chair** laid **House Bill 4563** before the committee.

HB 4563	Tobocman	Local government; port authorities; border development and protection authority; create.
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Representative Tobocman explained the intent of the bill and answered questions.

Representative Espinoza testified on the bill and answered questions.

Sarah Hubbard, representing the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce, testified on the bill and answered questions. She also submitted written material.

Greg Ward, representing the Detroit-Windsor Truck Ferry, testified in support of the bill.

John Steele, representing the Federal Highway Administration, gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled, “Observations and Recommendations for Bridge and Tunnel Operations on Northern Border.” Mr. Steele also submitted written material.

Brad Williams, representing the Michigan Department of Transportation, testified on the bill.

Mickey Blashfield, representing the Ambassador Bridge, submitted a testimony card in **opposition** to the bill, but did not wish to speak.

Daniel Cherrin, representing Detroit Windsor Tunnel LLC, submitted a testimony card indicating a **neutral** position on the bill, but did not wish to speak.

A written statement regarding the bill was submitted by **Neil Belitsky**, General Manager, Detroit Windsor Tunnel LLC.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the **Chair** adjourned the meeting, the time being **10:59 a.m.**

Representative Ed Clemente, Chair

Jean Hamelin, Committee Clerk
(517) 373-5632